ME FY18-20 PPA
Proposed Areas for Collaboration
October 1, 2017-September 30, 2020

2 Items Proposed by EPA:

1) Lean Project to Identify a Consistent, Mutually Acceptable Process for Reviewing and Finalizing the Annual PPA Progress Reports: In today's current environment of limited resources and increased accountability, the timely completion and finalization of each state's annual PPA progress report is critical. EPA must ensure that the federal funding provided in each state's multimillion-dollar Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) is used to accomplish the agreed-upon workplan deliverables, as stated in the P&C list of each state's multi-year PPA. The annual PPA progress report is the main mechanism used to track and document the progress being made on these deliverables. Since there is robust utilization of the PPGs in Region 1 (i.e. each of the New England states include approximately nine programs in each PPG), the need to develop a consistent and timely reporting process for all of these programs is essential. Not only is the annual PPA progress report a requirement under 2 CFR §200.328, but the PPG/PPA process is also designed to reflect the spirit of Cooperative Federalism, one of the goals under EPA's FY18-FY22 Strategic Plan. Therefore, the PPA annual progress report is important on many levels.

Despite recent revisions/improvements to the annual PPA Progress Report process, a standardized process for reviewing and finalizing these reports is still needed. The proposed lean project will focus on improving communication between the 3 groups of stakeholders (EPA PPA Coordinators, State PPA Coordinators, Program Staff). Key areas of focus are 1) establishing and agreeing upon the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the process; 2) agreeing upon the level of detail required in both the report itself and the feedback EPA provides back to the state; and 3) establishing and agreeing upon a process for addressing deliverables that carry over to the next year. We will develop a process that has a defined (and adhered to) timeframe because the process is taking too long.

2) Municipal Technical Assistance Program: An EPA/ME DEP Partnership for Maine Municipalities: The US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is collaborating with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection) to provide free technical assistance for municipalities and businesses in Maine. This program supports environmental and public health improvements in priority program areas.

Technical assistance is available under the following priority program areas: Brownfields Cleanups, Citizen Science, Clean Indoor Air, Community Resilience, Drinking Water Resource Planning, Emergency Preparedness, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Fairs, EPA Reporting for Small Municipalities, Federal Facilities Green Challenge, Grant Proposal Training, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Meeting Facilitation Assistance, Pollution Prevention, Recycling

Sustainability, Stormwater Management, Trash Water/Marine Debris Assistance, Water Efficiency, and Waste Wise/Food Waste Challenge.

Staff from MEDEP and EPA Region 1 will review the requests received for technical assistance and will work collaboratively to identify which requests will be granted based on achieving the greatest public health or environmental impact.

4 Items Proposed by MEDEP:

1) **Emerging Contaminants:** Emerging contaminants are newly recognized synthetic or naturally occurring chemicals or any microorganism that is not commonly monitored in the environment, but have the potential to enter the environment and cause known or suspected adverse ecological and (or) human health effects. These newly-recognized contaminants represent a shift from traditional regulatory programs because they are often dispersed throughout the environment via a variety of domestic, commercial and industrial uses. Responding to the detection of emerging contaminants in the environment is problematic because the detection methods, as well as the environmental health standards, are incompletely developed. In many cases, there is also a lack of understanding on the background environmental monitoring, source identification, fate and transport of the contaminants in air and water, and the potential impacts on human health and the environment.

Perfluorinated compounds represent a group of emerging contaminants of special concern in Maine. Perfluorinated compounds have been used for decades as an ingredient to make products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. They also are used in various products including firefighting foams, coating additives, and surface protection products for carpets and clothing. Studies have shown that these compounds over certain concentrations may result in adverse health effects, including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy or to breastfed infants, cancer, liver effects, immune effects, thyroid effects and others.

In Maine, one member of this family, Perflourooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS), has been detected in the drinking water of several communities. Fully identifying the sources, transport mechanisms and most effective treatment and remediation techniques can be best accomplished by coordinating the technical expertise and resources of the Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2) **Emergency Response and Removal Program:** EPA's emergency response program can provide services to quickly respond to properties or situations that pose a threat to human health or the environment from the release of hazardous materials. Under this program, EPA on-scene coordinators assist state agencies in addressing both emergency and non-emergency situations by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.

EPA and MEDEP will collaborate on emergency removal actions by EPA at Maine sites. EPA will use its authority under CERCLA for Hazardous Substances, and Coast Guard delegation for petroleum releases to surface water. The agencies will discuss potential removal sites for EPA, cooperate on investigations and removals, and conduct after-action meetings to discuss lessons learned to apply to future sites. MEDEP will also help educate Responsible Parties regarding obligations to report spills of national significance to EPA, and coordinate with EPA on responding to these spills. The agencies will keep each other appraised of training opportunities and exercises to ensure the agencies are prepared to respond to a significant event. Collaboration will also include keeping each other appraised of revised staff contact information, resource availability and limitations, changes in policies, and new initiatives or programs.

3) Evaluating Emerging and Alternative Technologies: In recent years, the Department has seen a significant increase in the use of emerging and alternative technologies in applications ranging from industrial processes to site remediation. Unfortunately, determining the value of emerging or alternative technology can be a challenging endeavor. There is often little guidance from the technology community, and the lack of institutional expertise preclude an unbiased evaluation of a technology's effectiveness and cost.

Staff from MEDEP and EPA Region I will collaborate with the assistance of EPA's Office of Research and Development to evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and cost of emerging and alternative technologies used for remediation, pollution control and waste utilization/recycling.

4) Use Attainability Analyses: In the coming years, the Department anticipates the need to perform several use attainability analyses as part of its hydropower licensing program. A use attainability analysis (UAA) is a structured scientific assessment of the beneficial uses a water body could support, given application of required effluent limits and implementation of cost-effective and reasonable best management practices.

A UAA is required anytime a state or tribe designates a use that does not include the "fishable/swimmable" goals of the Clean Water Act or changes a use to one that would apply less stringent criteria than the current use. If a use is designated that does not include the "fishable/swimmable" goals, that use designation and the rationale behind it need to be revisited every three years to see if circumstances have changed. The development (or review) of a UAA is time-consuming process due to the need to craft a structured scientific assessment and receive EPA approval under the Clean Water Act.

The Department will collaborate with EPA Region 1 staff when developing and performing a UAA. Fully leveraging each agency's expertise will help ensure the development of fully-approvable and technically sound analyses in a timely manner.